

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 MSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 VO-06 OMB-01 INRE-00 CA-02
USIE-00 FBIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 P-02
T-01 /053 W

-----326431 231552Z /43

O 231524Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4156
INFO AMEMBASSY EMBBERLIN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BONN 40123

USCINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY PERSONAL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, GC, GE
SUBJECT: GDR EMBASSY ASYLUM SEEKER/DEFECTOR EISMANN

REF: STATE 395841

1. EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH FRG BONN GROUP REPRESENTATIVE
QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL CONCERNING GDR THIRD SECRETARY LUTZ
EISMANN. VON BERG'S REACTION WAS THAT THE FRG SEEKS TO
KEEP SUCH CASES VERY QUIET, AND THEREFORE WOULD REQUEST
THE US TO SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE TO THE PRESS; FRG
WOULD NOT PLAN TO SAY ANYTHING ITSELF PUBLICLY. FOLLOWING
ARE DETAILS OF FRG VIEWS EXPRESSED.

2. SPECIFICALLY, FRG REQUESTS THAT WE REFRAIN FROM
DESCRIBING EISMANN AS A "DEFECTOR" -- THIS IS, IN FRG
VIEW, A JUDGMENT TO BE MADE BY INDIVIDUAL OR THE
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GOVERNMENT FROM WHICH HE HAS DISAFFILIATED HIMSELF. FRG
REQUESTS THAT WE ALSO NOT MAKE STATEMENT IMPLYING THAT
EISMANN IS AN APPLICANT FOR ASYLUM IN THE US OR FRG; IN
FRG VIEW, HIS REQUEST TO GO TO THE FRG IS NOT CONSIDERED
AN ASYLUM REQUEST, BUT A REQUEST TO ASSUME THE GERMAN
CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT TO WHICH HE IS ENTITLED.

3. FRG HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR CONFIRMING THAT THE GDR EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THIS MATTER (SECOND QUESTION REFTEL).

4. FRG DOES NOT OBJECT TO OUR INFORMING GDR THAT EISMANN HAS DEPARTED FOR THE FRG AS SOON AS HE LEAVES. IN FACT, SINCE IN FRG VIEW FRG ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PROTECTION AND WELFARE AS SOON AS HE APPLIES FOR AN FRG PASSPORT, FRG WOULD NOT OBJECT TO OUR REFERRING GDR TO FRG AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS THE PASSPORT IS APPLIED FOR. (IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE FRG AUTHORITIES IN THE US MAY BE GRATEFUL IF GDR IS NOT INFORMED ABOUT THEIR ROLE UNTIL AFTER EISMANN DEPARTS, ALTHOUGH THIS WILL DOUBTLESS INCREASE GDR ANNOYANCE.)

5. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO REVISE PRESS GUIDANCE TO REFLECT FRG WISHES, WE SUGGEST SOMETHING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT A DIPLOMAT AT THE GDR EMBASSY HAS DEFECTED?

A. I SUGGEST YOU ASK THE GDR EMBASSY ABOUT THAT.

Q. HAS SUCH A GDR OFFICIAL APPLIED FOR ASYLUM?

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A. IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE EXISTENCE OF INDIVIDUAL ASYLUM REQUESTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE APPLICANTS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS. (NOTE: THIS LANGUAGE IS DERIVED FROM THAT USED IN CASE OF GDR SWIMMER JENS-PETER BERNDT, WHO DEFECTED TO THE U.S. IN 1985 -- SEE 85 STATE 10171.)

Q. HAS THE GDR EMBASSY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE MATTER?

A. YES. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE CASE.

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Message Attributes

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